

mounted device, head-mounted device, and/or other wearable device, or in other configurations.

[0061] As shown in the example of FIG. 14, asymmetric drive signals may change orientation. For example, signals 118 may be used to create a sensation of applied force in a first direction whereas signals 120 (in which the positions of the steep and less steep portions of the waveform have been reversed) may create a sensation of applied force in an opposing second direction. As indicated by dashed lines 122, the peaks of sawtooth drive signals may, if desired, be truncated. FIG. 15 shows how drive signal I may have a sawtooth shape embedded in sawtooth envelope 122. FIG. 16 shows how Gaussian drive signal pulses may be embedded within sawtooth envelope 122. In the FIG. 17 arrangement, drive signal I has an overall sawtooth shape upon which smaller increasing sawtooth features have been impressed. Sawtooth pulses 124 of drive signal I of FIG. 18 have steep rising edges, which is in opposition to the overall slowly rising and rapidly falling sawtooth envelope 122 of signal I. Other drive signals may be used in controlling haptic output components 80 if desired. The arrangements of FIGS. 14, 15, 16 17, and 18 are merely illustrative.

[0062] FIG. 19 is a diagram showing how a user may use device 10 to supply a system with user input to manipulate a displayed object such as object 154. A user may grip device 10 so that the user's fingers receive haptic output from output components 80 (and, if desired, provide input to overlapping sensors 94). A motion sensor in device 10 may gather motion input as a user moves device 10.

[0063] During operation of the system, object 154 may be presented to a user visually (e.g., using a display in a head-mounted device such as device 100 of FIG. 1 or other display and other optional electronic equipment such as an associated set-up box, computer, etc.). The user may use force input, touch input, motion input, voice input, and/or other user input gathered with device 10 to control the system. For example, a user may point device 10 in direction 150 at object 154 and may press on a button, touch sensor, force sensor, or other component or may otherwise indicate to device 10 that the user has selected object 154 to enable user manipulation of the position of object 154. Once object 154 has been selected, the user may move device 10 in direction 152 so that a motion sensor in device 10 can sense a desired movement of object 154 in direction 156. Motion input from device 10 can then be used by the system to move the displayed object. If desired, user input for moving object 154 may also be provided using touch input, force input, and/or other input.

[0064] When the user moves object 154 in direction 156, object 154 may come into contact (visually) with another object being displayed for the user such as object 158. As the leading surface 160 of object 154 comes into visual alignment with surface 160 of object 158, control circuitry in the system may direct haptic output components 80 to provide directional output that gives rise to a sensation of resistance to further movement of device 10. In this way, virtual boundaries may be rendered and other sensations of force can be created in association with the visual content being presented to the user (e.g., when a virtual object interacts with other virtual items). The directional haptic feedback being provided to a user in the example of FIG. 19 may be oriented in direction 164 and may be applied when surface 162 meets surface 160 to make it appear to the user as if object 154 has struck object 158 in the real world. This type

of force feedback may be provided to the user in any suitable operating environment (e.g., when viewing virtual reality content and/or mixed reality content using head-mounted device, when working in a content creation or productivity application on a desktop computer, when playing a game on a television using a set-top box, when dragging displayed objects across a cellular telephone display, etc.). The use of haptic output components 80 in device 10 to render resistance to virtual object movement in a virtual reality world being presented to a user with a head-mounted display or other device 100 that communicates with device 10 is merely illustrative.

[0065] The foregoing is merely illustrative and various modifications can be made to the described embodiments. The foregoing embodiments may be implemented individually or in any combination.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device, comprising:

a housing having a surface;

a sensor configured to receive a user input;

a haptic output component in the housing configured to provide haptic feedback to a user's body part, wherein the haptic output component includes actuators extending along a length of the surface and configured to move back and forth in a given direction parallel to the length;

control circuitry in the housing, wherein the control circuitry is configured to drive the haptic output component with an asymmetric signal to produce an apparent applied force in the given direction to the user's body part based on the user input; and

wireless communications circuitry in the housing, wherein the wireless communications circuitry is configured to transmit a signal based on the user input.

2. The electronic device defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a display, wherein the display is on an additional surface of the device that extends from the surface at a non-zero angle.

3. The electronic device defined in claim 1, wherein the housing has four sidewalls running around a periphery of the housing, and wherein the surface is on one of the four sidewalls.

4. The electronic device defined in claim 3, further comprising:

a display having four edges, wherein each of the four edges is aligned with a respective one of the sidewalls.

5. The electronic device defined in claim 1, wherein the actuators each comprise a stack of electrodes and interposed layers of adjustable material that expand and contract along the length in response to signals applied to the layers with the electrodes.

6. The electronic device defined in claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a head-mounted housing.

7. The electronic device defined in claim 2, wherein the housing comprises a finger mounted housing and the haptic output component provides haptic feedback to a user's finger.

8. The electronic device defined in claim 7, wherein the finger mounted housing has a U shape that exposes a user's finger pad.

9. The electronic device defined in claim 7, wherein the finger mounted housing has a ring shape.